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Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00491 061536Z

42
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

EURE-00 (ISO) W
---------- 055858
P R 061435Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8373
INFO USMISSION USUN NY
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCAS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0491

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PMIL, UN, XF, FI, SW
SUBJECT: FUTURE OF UNEF COMMANDING GENERAL SIILASVUO

1. INDEPENDENT SWEDISH LANGUAGE HELSINKI NEWSPAPER HUFVUDSTADSBLADET TODAY CARRIES REPORT FROM ITS STRINGER IN JERUSALEM, RICHARD OESTERMANN, CLAIMING THAT THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF UNEF, ENSIO SIILASVUO, WILL SOON CONCLUDE HIS PERIOD OF SERVICE. ACCORDING TO THE SAME REPORT, SWEDISH MAJOR GENERAL BENGT LILJESTRAND, NOW CHIEF OF UNTSO IN JERUSALEM, WOULD SUCCEED SIILASVUO. GOF SOURCES AT THIS TIME DECLINE TO CONFIRM ABOVE MENTIONED REPORT AND SAY IT IS ONLY JOURNALIST'S OPINION.

2. NEWS REPORT MAY BE RELATED TO NAMING OF SIILASVUO LAST MONTH TO POSITION OF TRAINING CHIEF OF FINNISH DEFENSE FORCES AS OF APRIL 11 WHEN PRESENT INCUMBENT RE-TIRES. HOWEVER, ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENT DOES NOT
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PAGE 02 HELSIN 00491 061536Z

NECESSARILY MEAN THAT SIILASVUO WILL IN FACT START NEW

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

JOB APRIL 11 OR SOON THEREAFTER. WE NOTE SIILASVUO ONCE BEFORE APPOINTED TO A HIGHER JOB (CHIEF OF OPERATIONS, GHQ, ON MARCH 15, 1974), BUT NEVER ACTUALLY TOOK UP THE POSITION.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES SIILASVUO PROBABLY WOULD LIKE TO RETURN TO FINLAND AND HIGH LEVEL POSITION TO WHICH HE HAS BEEN NAMED SINCE IT IS A STEPPING STONE TO THE CINC POSITION. HE MAY ALSO WISH TO LEAVE THE UNEF JOB BOTH BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN WITH THE UN COMMAND IN THE MIDDLE EAST EVER SINCE OCTOBER, 1967, AND LEAVING NOW, WHILE ALL QUIET ON UNEF FRONT, WOULD MEAN LEAVING ON A HIGH NOTE OF SUCCESS. AT THE SAME TIME WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOF WOULD BE WILLING HAVE HIM STAY WITH UNEF AS LONG AS UNSYG INSISTS ON IT.
HOUSTONG

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